

Ken "Scrap Iron" Walters, Former County Fire Marshal, Dies Saturday

Kenneth Scott "ScrapIron" Walters, 58, of Armory Road, North Wilkesboro, a fire service instructor and former Wilkes County fire marshal, died Saturday, May 19, 2012 at his home.

Mr. Walters was born June 3, 1953 in Wilkes County to P.G. and Hilda Hanes Walters. He was a member of Northside Baptist Church.

Mr. Walters was a fire inspector with the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department, a former president of the Wilkes County Fireman's Association, and a member of the Broadway Fire Department. He served as a state certified fire service instructor and taught fire service training classes at many of the rural fire departments in Wilkes County. He was also one of the organizers of the annual Northwest Fire College at Wilkes Community College and helped start the county fire service training ground at the former Wilkes County landfill on Germantown Road.

Mr. Walters helped design and develop the county's basic and enhanced 911 computer assisted emergency dispatch system. He was a member of the county sheriff's department bomb team.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia Rogers Walters of the home; two sons, Kenneth Scott Walters Jr. and wife, Yvonne, and Matthew Worth Walters and wife, Nadine, all of North Wilkesboro; his mother, Hilda Hanes Walters of North Wilkesboro; five grandchildren, Lindsey Maxine Walters, Mackenzie Worth Walters, Grayson Scott Walters, Matthew Isaac Walters, and Rebecca Mae Walters; one brother, Douglass Walters and wife, Bonnie, of Irmo, S.C., and his father-in-law, Robert J. Rogers of Wilkesboro.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Funeral service will be Tuesday, 11 a.m., at Miller Funeral Chapel with Brother Jerry Alexander officiating. Entombment will follow in the Mountlawn Memorial Park Mausoleum.

The family will receive friends at Miller Funeral Service from 6:30 until 8:30 Monday night.

Pallbearers will be Phil Batts, Johnny Baker, Doug Cotton, Niki Hamby, Johnny Mastin, and Dane Mastin. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Broadway Fire Department and the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to Northside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2731, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659; or to the Wilkes County Fireman's Association, 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697.

Miller Funeral Service is in charge of the arrangements.

Friends remember Walters

Johnny Mastin, the former chief of the Broadway Fire Department, said, “Ken’s life revolved around his family and the fire service. He was a dedicated member of the department. We were more like brothers than friends.”

Former Sheriff Dane Mastin said, “When Ken was fire marshal, we worked on several investigations together. We were both on the board that developed the initial 911 emergency dispatch system. He wanted to do all he could to make it easier for the firefighters to serve.”

Bobby Gentry, the lead instructor of EMS and fire and rescue services at Wilkes Community College, commented that Walters “was the instructor’s instructor in Wilkes and across the state. He was instrumental in the growth of fire service training in our county.”